United Nations ST/IC/2009/5

Secretariat

15 January 2009

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue, 6 February 2009: "100th Anniversary U Thant" stamps and New York definitive stamps**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Friday, 6 February 2009, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of three commemorative stamps on the theme "100th Anniversary U Thant". The stamps are printed in offset in a sepia tone and embellished with gold foil.

2. The year 2009 marks the centenary of the birth of U Thant, who served as Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1961 to 1971. U Thant began serving as Acting Secretary-General on 3 November 1961, when he was unanimously appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to fill the unexpired term of the late Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld. He was then unanimously appointed Secretary-General by the General Assembly on 30 November 1962 for a term of office ending on 3 November 1966. He was subsequently appointed for a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations until 31 December 1971.

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 5 March 2009.

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3. The stamps will be issued in the denominations of $0.94, SwF 1.30 and €1.15. The right margin of the horizontal sheets of 20 stamps will have a decorative tab with a statement about U Thant.

(United States equivalents: SwF 1.30: $1.24 and €1.15: $1.65, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

New York definitive stamps

4. On 6 February 2009, UNPA will issue three New York definitive stamps in the denominations of $0.01, $0.09 and $0.10 to meet make-up postage rates. The stamps, which will be issued in a sheet of 20, were designed by Jaime Arredondo (United States of America), who was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. As the son of a Native American of Mexican heritage and a Tejana mother, he identifies strongly with the Mexican and Tejano cultures of Texas.

5. The stamp designs are paintings of three different flowers, as follows: $0.01, "Cielo rosado"; $0.09, "Rosa de sangre"; and $0.10, "Espíritu de mujer".

General information

6. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 6 February, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) A temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat lobby in front of the windows between the cafeteria and the news-stand, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.